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THE BAPTIST RECORD

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EDITORIAL.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The best way to limit undesirable emigration in this country would be to make liquor selling a crime. Few but worthy people would then apply.

Many thanks to our electrical secretaries, Drs. Burrows and Gregory for copies of the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention one week after that body adjourned.

We greet Dr. W. P. Harvey of the Western Recorder as the youngest and handsomest of our more recent D. D.'s. Good will to you, dear doctor.

Let every church in the Chickasaw Association make a contribution at once or as soon as possible to our associational mission work. Bro. Ray has done good work and needs your help.

The Texas Siftings says: "Modern society overlooks a solid reputation much more readily than it does solid gloves." Yes "modern society" is very charitable—where there is anything like a money consideration.

Bro. M. C. Cole, formerly of the First Baptist church in New Orleans, has entered his new field as pastor of the Baptist church at Walla Walla, Washington. His family left New Orleans on May 23, for that place. Our best wishes go with our brother and his household and prayers for the divine blessing in their new home.

Did you say "asked and did not receive," beloved? Well, just bear in mind that God's delays are not God's denials. He sometimes "waits to be gracious." Only take hold of his promise, hold on, hold fast and hold out. "The righteous cry and the Lord heareth them."

I thought newspapers advertised every kind of legitimate business if they were paid for.—A LITIGATOR. Well, no not all of them. Some Christian newspaper men and especially those who are unconditional prohibitionists would as soon keep a liquor saloon as to advertise one. But then he may be "narrow."

It might not be much of a sin for a preacher to tell how bad he used to be, if he did not put it in contrast with his present status, to show how good he is now. A man's goodness ought to be such as will make itself manifest without any extra advertising. In other words, it should be sufficiently vocal to speak for itself.

We greatly regret that we were out of the office the other day when Brethren Spoles and Cochran called. They are brethren whom we love always to meet and to whom we would accord a most hearty welcome to our office and our home. Don't fail to call again brethren if it ever comes in your way, and rest assured of a most cordial greeting.

Did you say beloved that we need a new revelation? Perhaps you have forgotten what the Master taught, that "they have Moses and the prophets," and that "they would not be persuaded though one rose from the dead." Is not the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth? And the Holy Spirit, where is he?

For God's people to leave the church and go out into all manner of semi-scriptural and semi-Christian society detachments to fight the devil, is too much like the sailors and marines of a great man-of-war ship taking to the little boats hastily constructed rafts and temporary floats to fight an oncoming ironclad monster. In the end we fear their fate will be the same. "God has given salvation for bulwarks" and that salvation in its power to save and win the world to Christ is made manifest by and through his churches. God loves his churches.

There seems to be a race between financialism and evangelism among our Methodist neighbors. Their preachers are rated in proportion to the money they raise rather than their success in winning souls and edifying the saints. We wonder how long it will be until we see such things cropping out among Baptists? Let us hope that it will not be before the millennium.

Of course the pastors and churches know that this is the quarter for State mission collections. Will not every pastor push the work with his people and get all he can? The churches of the Chickasaw Association should especially stir themselves for our Board is sadly behind with our good brother, S. O. Ray, who has been doing most faithful and efficient work.

"There has been some talk of a new Baptist weekly at Henrietta, Texas is a big State and every man has a right to start a paper that wants to. The Standard will jog along with the procession and will each week give the news and all the news."—Texas Baptist Standard. That is sort of pious like brother to "grin and bear it" like a little man. "More to follow" is always an appropriate song to sing on the paper question, though there may not be much in the new enterprise but buncum.

In order to make our centennial meetings a greater success hereafter, we respectfully suggest, 1. Secure, if possible, and by all means a delegation from all parts of the territory embraced by the churches represented. 2. Give liberal opportunity for spontaneous discussion of all subjects on the program; and, 3. Allow much time for prayer and waiting on God in song and free, mutual conference.

If there is "a man, woman or child" among the Baptists of Mississippi who does not agree with the thought of our editorial on the W. C. T. U. Convention and "women in the pulpit" we are not aware of it. We have heard of one or two who would "draw the line at the pulpit" but none in or beyond it. If Baptists have a mission in this world it is to preach the not a gospel to all the world and to contend earnestly, not playfully for the faith once delivered to the saints.

Bro. I. H. Auding, of Crystal Springs, will preach the commencement sermon of the Lea Female College, at Summit, Miss., on Sunday, the 19th, at 11 a. m., and the commencement exercises proper will occur on June, the 20th, at 8 p. m. There will be other interesting exercises all of which will close with a dawn sociable on Thursday, the 23, at 8 p. m. Thanks for an invitation to attend.

We acknowledge a kind invitation to attend the closing exercises of the Keachi Male and Female College at Keachi, La. Dr. J. J. Taylor, of Mobile, will preach the commencement sermon on Sunday, 11 a. m., and Dr. J. R. Edwards, of Ruston, La., the missionary sermon at night. They have a fine program of exercises, which will finish up on Wednesday, at 11 a. m., with an address by E. H. Randolph, Esq., of Shreveport, La.

Here is what a North Carolina paper says about our Dr. R. R. Womack, of Clinton, and we will venture to add a splendid treat awaits those Chapel Hill people: "Rev. Dr. R. B. Womack, of Mississippi, will deliver a literary address on the night of the first. The Doctor is an able man and a distinguished orator and we consider his presence a compliment to Chapel Hill community. This is a refined, cultivated and intelligent people and the Doctor will have a packed house to hear him."

We would like to chime in with our numerous contemporaries and say ever so many nice things about Dr. E. C. Dargan and the suitability of his election to a professorship in the S. B. T. Seminary. But we don't happen to know the gentleman personally and will have to content ourselves with saying that the Seminary Board of Trustees have done so many wise things and so few foolish ones that we doubt not this one belongs to the former class and therefore it is well done.

We make haste to say that when a Baptist preacher elopes with and marries a girl of non age contrary to the wishes of her parents or guardian and also to the law of the land, he does a very reprehensible thing and ought to be subjected to the same rule of church discipline that applies to other disturbers of homes and violators of law. This is suggested by the case of Rev. A. A. Butler, of Durham, N. C., who is reported as having committed such a misdemeanor.

OUR OBSERVATORY.

Three brethren were reported in Atlanta as having given \$5,000 each to the centennial missionary fund, and now another Southern Baptist gives \$20,000 for the same object. This four men will give as much for missions as the whole South gave in one year for foreign missions less than a dozen years ago. Let the good work go on.—The Minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention were on our table in about a week after the body adjourned. This is quick work.

The Religious Herald, on congratulating Rev. E. C. Dargan on his appointment as Dr. Broadus' assistant, tells its readers that it said to him, "The Herald will be at your back to do what it can for you." We congratulate you, friend Dargan, that you are so highly favored; for without the smiles of The Herald, we seriously fear that your eminent fitness for the great position to which you have been called could never insure your success. With The Herald at your back, all anxiety is removed.—The Religious Herald says, in referring to our Sunday School Board: "If that Board can give us Sunday School papers as good and as cheap as the American Baptist Publication Society can, it will find patrons." It has patrons already, and it is going to have many more, and that without hunting them. We guarantee that its publications are as good and as cheap as those of any other Society. The publication business, so far as the South is concerned, is settled. This was shown so plainly in Atlanta that even a blind man could see it. You had as well join the Southern army, Brother Herald, and go along with us. We say this without reflecting in the least on the Publication Society.—"The Society belongs to us as truly as the Board,"—Religious Herald. Some people think that you belong to the Society. We do not know how that is, but we do know that the Board belongs to Southern Baptists, and that it is a part of the work of our Convention, and as such, Southern Baptists are going to give no unmistakable evidence as to whose it is.—"What is the matter with the Religious Herald?" It seems to be rather indifferent to the work of our Convention. Its account of the Atlanta meeting surprised me.—A Virginia Baptist living in Mississippi. We do not know, but you know it hurts any of us to be disappointed in our predictions. The great and glorious old Herald will wheel into line after awhile. In the meantime things will go on just as though we were doing her best. You see, we cannot wait on some people to get over their pouts. Time is too precious and the work is too great.—We were glad to meet Bro. G. W. Riley in Atlanta, and have an assurance of his strong endorsement of The Record. With the help of such brethren, our paper will undoubtedly grow in power and usefulness.—"Were you ever in a lunatic asylum?" Yes, I have preached to lunatics. As quick as thought the reply came, "I guess you have done a good deal of preaching to many of that class outside of an asylum." The above is the substance of a conversation between us and our Sunday School teacher, which occurred in the class not long since. It has set us to thinking. Well did Jesus say to some who had long been his hearers, "O, fools and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken."—We had a tiny speech from a pompous D. D. before the Convention one night in Atlanta, which clearly showed that said speaker had the most wonderful opinion of himself. He let us know that he had been abroad, graced, gesticulated, grinned for the gratification of himself at the profound impression which he felt that he was making, and finally closed the drama by reciting some doggerel which he claimed to be an original hymn of which he himself was the author. The great audience breathed a sigh of relief when the show was over. Happily we have very few men of this kind in our Convention, and our humble prayer shall ever be that this few may yet come to themselves. "Vanity of vanities saith the preacher."—Rev. W. B. Wingate, of Greensboro, N. C., resigns the pastorate of the church at that place, and gives up the ministry because his taste and inclinations toward business life are strongest. The Baptist and Reflector says it would be glad for him to reconsider his action. We would not. If he loves business better than the ministry, we are glad he has given the latter up, and we hope he will stay out of it forevermore. We have no room for half-hearted men in our pulpits; but only such as can say with Paul, "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

try.—The Baptist Courier rises to say that it was sorry to see impatience upon the part of members of the Home Board when a suggestion was made by the chairman of a committee that a change be made in the annual report, and when another chairman of a committee presumed to express the opinion that a certain part of the Board's work had not proven a conspicuous success. We are rather surprised that The Courier should say this, for we judged from its repeated utterances before the meeting of the Convention that it was out and out opposed to any criticism of the Board whatsoever.—The Standard says there is talk of another Baptist paper being started in Texas. If this be true, we have three Baptist weeklies, and ahead of her sister States in this, as well as in many other respects. We suggest that the brethren all unite, merge their papers into one, and lead off by giving the world the first Baptist daily it has ever had. Why not?—The Baptist and Reflector suggests that a Southern Baptist Editorial Association be organized, composed of the editors of Southern Baptist papers. The object of this organization will be to give sympathy, encouragement and help. We think it might be made to do good.—Tom Dixon says he dreads the theology of our Southern brethren, such as Drs. Hawthorne and Jones, as he does the small-pox; and yet he wishes us to allow a man so utterly rotten as himself to preach in our pulpits. You cannot do it, Tom.—Our visit to Shuquak was a delightful one in every way. The royal hospitality, the kindly greetings, and the warm expressions of affection were as much as any mortal could desire. We make most grateful acknowledgments to the graduating class for the handsome way in which they gave unmistakable evidence of their feelings.—President L. M. Stone is evidently doing a great work at Shuquak. We heard many expressions of him and his work, which indicated the strong hold he has upon the community.—"How did you manage to get such a lady?" was the question we put to Bro. E. W. Spencer. Sister Spencer replied, "By doing as you advised in your address a moment ago." We are delighted to know that he is prospering in his new field.—We passed pleasant hours with Brother and Sister Noffsinger at West Point last week. We wonder if other folks are as fond of the homes of Baptist preachers as we are? Bro. Noffsinger keeps things moving in his church, having recently baptized several persons.—We greatly enjoyed being with Brethren S. G. Cooper and Hackett at Shuquak. Bro. Cooper's sermon pleased everyone. He does just as every sensible man should do on such occasions, viz: preach the gospel in a simple, practical way.—We saw the new parsonage recently built at Shuquak. It is a first-class two story building. Few churches are progressive enough to look ahead as these brethren have. It reflects credit alike upon themselves and upon their honored pastor, who, though not living with them, urges them onward and upward.—Capt. W. C. Swindall was on hand at the Shuquak commencement, as happy and as merry as you please. Of course he was as gallant as any gentleman could be. We are always pleased to meet the Captain.—We return thanks to Bro. E. E. Thornton for his kind invitation to attend the dedication of his new house of worship at Kosciusko, but could not possibly accept. We wish him and his people great success.—We are at a loss to find words to express our appreciation of the many kind things the sisters from Meridian and elsewhere said to us, while at Shuquak, about THE RECORD, and about our views upon questions in which they are most interested. But why be surprised? We are God's servants, and it is natural for us to love to do things just as he commands us to do them.—Thanks to Bro. G. W. Knight for his kind words of approval and appreciation. We shall do as you suggest some day.—"The Baptists of Mississippi are thinking just about the same way right now, and that without ever having had any conference upon the various questions they have in mind."—W. D. B. We do not see why they should not think alike, for they are led by the Spirit. If not, they should be.—The only thing we seek to do is to inculcate principles which will make you modest, womanly women, prepared to grace the home, and to serve in the sphere God has assigned you. President Stone said about that in his talk to his graduating class, in which he was most tender and uplifting. We rejoice to believe that this is the thing that is aimed at in every Baptist female school in the State.—Mississippi College, at its last commencement, authorized us,

through the trustees, to write D. D. after the name of Rev. W. P. Harvey, of the Western Recorder. We salute you, Doctor Harvey.—We were glad to make the acquaintance of Prof. Jamison and his wife at Shuquak, where he is teaching. Bro. Jamison was for a long time professor at Murfreesboro, Tenn.—"If the W. C. T. U. would remember when they get the use of a church building that it is as inappropriate for one of their speakers to advocate the cause of any political party as it would be for a man to preach a thing, it would be better than them and for the cause of the cause."—Central Baptist. Yes, that is the very thing that the speakers will remember to do, for it is at the bottom of the whole thing when it comes to the long-minded who do the speaking. Baptists cannot consistently allow their houses of worship to be used for women to speak or preach in, and for the reason see 1 Cor 14:34, 35. 1 Tim. 2:11-12.

THE W. C. T. U. CONVENTION.

We note from the secular papers that at the recent session of this body the sermon on Sunday was preached by a woman. This is no more than we expected. Two years ago they had a man to follow the Convention up and fill the pulpit on Sunday, but they have gotten so far advanced as to find it unnecessary to ask any favors of the "lords of creation," but rash right in the face of the plainest teachings of the word of God into the most solemn and sacred place where it expressly forbids their going. Our Baptist sisters ought to think of these things, and not give their countenance and support to such an institution. We do not see how they can do so, and we believe that it is only necessary for them to read the New Testament as to its teaching about this matter, and they will govern themselves accordingly. Often we let our zeal get the better of us, and without thinking, we find that we are doing the very thing that we do not to do, viz: "doing evil that good may come." It matters not how good the cause may be, we are not to do evil, but to advance it. If we do, we will not bless our efforts nor us, but show his displeasure at our disobedience and sin. Some of our sisters have been inveigled into this thing without knowing what its object was, and without thinking of its unscriptural methods; but we believe that as they get light they will walk in it. We believe in temperance, and have ever done our best to promote the cause, but we cannot favor nor give our support to any society which pursues methods condemned by the word of God.

While Bro. M. T. Martin was in Meridian, he delivered a lecture on the return of the Jews to Palestine. The lecture was in the City Hall, and to a fine audience. We would not attempt to give a report of the address, but we are free to say it was a most interesting talk. It was based almost entirely upon what Paul says in his epistle to the Romans about the Jews, and showed that the preacher had very closely studied his subject, and had strong convictions concerning his conclusions. Never having studied the passages in the connections in which he used them, we could not venture a positive opinion as to the exact correctness of the views he presented, but have no hesitancy in saying that they were both logical and plausible. The lecture was calculated to make thinking people think more and more about the Jews, and we are quite sure that they have not thought about them quite enough. We are so satisfied that the lecture ought to do good that we advise everybody to hear it whenever the opportunity presents itself to do so.

We acknowledge an invitation to attend the commencement exercises of the A. & M. College at Starkville on the 12th to 15th inst. The annual sermons will be delivered on Sunday, the 12th, at 11 a. m. and 8:30 p. m., by H. C. Morrison, D. D. of Atlanta, Ga., and the annual address by Governor J. M. Stone on Wednesday, the 15th at 11 a. m., with very interesting exercises intervening.

We hope every pastor in the State who can by any means spare the time, will go among his people, and every other worker who wants the church and THE RECORD to prosper with our three propositions, to-wit: The paper from now until next January to new subscribers for \$1.00, cash. Also to new subscribers or old ones renewing and sending the cash \$2.00, within two months from May 15th we will send the paper for fourteen months. Do this dear brethren and help the paper for the Master's sake.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Of Our Great College at Baptist Headquarters: Speeches, Oration, Essays, Sermons; Visit of Drs. Hawthorne and Carter; A Great Week.

R. B. WOMACK.

I warned you and your host of readers some time ago of what a time we were soon to have here at the headquarters of Mississippi Baptists, and suggested that if you did not come and see and hear for yourself, you would lose much. He told what a true prophet I am! It has all come to pass. I did my duty, tried to get you to come, but you hardened your heart and stiffened your neck, and would not. I am sorry for you. You want me to tell you of it; but I can not tell you the half of what has happened during the last few days. We have had a great time; a feast of reason and a flow of soul. No doubt of that, sir. Original speeches, declamations, essays, all abounding in wit, wisdom and pathos, in rhetoric, argument and simile, in thought, epigram and logic, have been dealt out to the delighted throngs with a lavish hand.

SATURDAY, MAY 21.

Public exercises opened Saturday morning, May 21, with a vigorous contest for a gold medal, by members of Dr. Webb's class in elocution. I can not refrain from saying in the out-set, that it was the most interesting exercise of the kind I ever witnessed. There were eight contestants; they all recited the same piece, and that was, "The Raven" by Poe. Perhaps nothing in the language is more difficult to render, and certainly there is not a finer composition of the kind in the language. The class had studied that piece the whole session. They were trained under a master, for Dr. Webb is a master. Booth or Barrett, or any of the professionals would have heard them with interest. The speaking and acting, the gesture and manifestation of feeling, the use of the face and voice were well nigh perfect. One young man was so overcome with feeling, as he recited the next to the last stanza, that his lips quivered, his face flushed, his eyes filled and his tears flowed thick and fast. A tornado of passion swept over the audience. I never saw its equal. Notwithstanding all this, he did not get the medal. Mr. Lowe, a ministerial student, won the medal, even over such a competitor.

Sunday night the great audience was treated to another contest for a medal. This was by students of the Preparatory Department, under the able-aid and progressive Prof. Logan. Mr. Lowe, who won the medal in the morning, was in the contest also. He recited the supposed speech of Regulus to perfection; but he did not win the medal. Mr. Lang, of New Orleans, another ministerial student, won this medal on his superb rendition of that favorite piece: "The Polish Boy." The action permissible in this, enabled Mr. Lang, a born actor, to win. This was a fine entertainment.

SUNDAY, MAY 22.

Sunday was a great day; it was filled with good things. Rev. J. B. Hawthorne, D. D., preached the commencement sermon in the morning. A great audience greeted him, and he treated them to a great sermon. He was at his best. I have heard him several times; but never heard him equal the sermon of last Sunday morning. The great preacher, by special request, met the multitude again in the evening at 8 o'clock, and again thrilled them with his eloquence.

At 8 p. m., was the hour for the annual Missionary Sermon, and Rev. G. H. Carter, of Starkville, was the preacher. Another large audience greeted the preacher, and the preacher turned himself loose, threw himself on the mercy of God and preached to them in burning words about the growth of the kingdom of God. Brother Carter is young, energetic, able, and did himself full justice on this important occasion. It was much to follow Hawthorne; but he followed, and his sermon was enjoyed.

MONDAY, MAY 23.

A final chapel exercise was held Monday morning. Students, visitors and friends were present. It was an overflow. Again Dr. Hawthorne delighted his hearers. At 11 o'clock the annual literary address was delivered by the Hon. Mr. Miller, of Hazlehurst. His theme was, "The Duty of Educated Young Men to Mississippi." The discourse was able and timely, and was well received. Mr. Miller is a recent graduate of Mississippi College, and is rapidly growing in favor and power with the people.

At 8 p. m., the "Junior Contest for the Trotter Gold Medal" came off. There were fourteen contestants.

ants. The speeches, which were original, were well conceived, well composed, and well delivered. Mr. E. J. Simmons won this medal; Mr. C. L. Anderson, another ministerial student, won the second honor.

TUESDAY, MAY 24.

On we go and launch into another day of interesting exercises. At 11 a. m. we have "The Program of the Exhibition of the Philomathean and Hermentian Societies." This exhibition consisted of four original orations, two from each of the Societies. The "first orators" were Mr. O. C. Green and Mr. M. A. Fort. At 3 p. m. the Alumni Association had its annual meeting; and at 8 o'clock we had "commencement exercises" proper. This consisted of orations by the graduates, presentation of diplomas by the president, awarding of medals, etc. There were six graduates; three of them are young ministers, and two of them are sons of ministers. The young minister graduates are, S. P. Harris, C. M. Morris and W. F. Yarbrough. H. D. Webb is a son of Dr. Webb, and E. H. Pettigrew is a son of our brother, Rev. J. L. Pettigrew, a trustee of the college. The other graduate is Mr. E. L. Bailey, of Winona, brother-in-law of Prof. Aven. Mr. Bailey won the medal for the best graduating essay. He is able, ambitious and promises much; Mr. Pettigrew is brilliant, chivalrous and poetic; Mr. Webb is young, aspiring and capable. Mr. Yarbrough is the "first honor man," and is brilliant and devout, and in connection with Mr. Harris and Mr. Morris, and other ministerial students, yields a mighty influence for good on the great body of students. This is a fine graduating class, and would do credit to any institution of learning. There are twenty odd in the junior class, and if they all return, we will have next year by far the largest graduating class in the history of the college.

MEALS.

Nine medals were awarded: one for composition in senior class; one for oratory in the junior class; one for reading in elocution class; one for declamation in the preparatory department; one for bringing in the greatest number of new students; two each by the two military companies—one each for the best drilled man in the company, and one each for punctuality. These two military companies are an important feature of the college.

MUSIC.

During all these many and various exercises, the great audiences were treated again and again to excellent music, both instrumental and vocal. We have a number of musicians in Mississippi College, and still another number among our citizens; so that we are able, on short notice, to spread a tempting and artistic musical menu at any time. In fact, sir, we have everything here that is calculated to refine and elevate our young people. The town and college people duly appreciate the thoughtful kindness of the Gulege Plano Company, of Jackson, in sending to us at their own charges, a magnificent upright Kimball piano, to be used by our musicians during their closing exercises.

OUR FORCE.

This closes a year of much good work. I have never seen anywhere more abundant evidence that good work of high order was done, than I see here. The very spirit of the place is work. It is work, work, work, all the time; hard work, close work, good work; work that will stay with the young men; work that will do them good and make men of them. All the departments have received the best attention; every professor deserves special mention for faithful service. President Venable is to be congratulated on the results of the first year of his administration. He has presided, directed, taught. Dr. Webb, the grand old man, who loved Mississippi College more than he loved his own family and gave ample proof of his devotion by sticking to the college and keeping it alive, doing the work of two or three men, salary or no salary, during the years of its severest struggles with poverty and financial panics—he, who has taught so long and so well and has won so much honor for himself and Mississippi College, is doing in the class room now the best work of his life. The results of his work in the elocution classes is truly remarkable. Prof. Deupree, a veteran and a power, ever ready and progressive, retires; but his place is filled by the election of Prof. Wooten of West Point. Prof. Aven continues to study and grow; he loves his calling and is devoted to his work. Prof. Johnson thought to resign and take a special course abroad, but was prevailed upon to remain in the place he has ably filled the past two years. Prof. Sellers holds on the even tenor of his way, doing good

From this time on no advertisement will be inserted in this paper unless on metal base. Please make a note of this.

solid word. He contemplates going North for purposes of special study during the summer. Prof. Logan has the Preparatory Department. He is energetic and progressive. His department made a most interesting and satisfactory display.

D. D.

Mississippi College is at the front in every good work. It is not engaged in making Doctors of Divinity as a special calling; But it does make a few. The honorable Board of Trustees did vote to confer the degree of D. D. (Divinitia doctor) on Rev. W. P. Harvey of the Western Recorder, Louisville, Ky. Dr. Harvey was already a "Doctor of Divinity; our college did not make him such, but only declared the fact. Mississippi College has never been guilty of conferring the degree of L. L. D. on innocent Baptist preachers. L. L. D. as all progressive colleges know, means, Doctor of Laws (Legum Doctor.) Baptist preachers do not make a specialty of studying law, and hence it is no befitting thing to call them Doctors of Law. If they are Doctors of anything, they are doctors of divinity. "Doctor" means teacher. Baptist preachers do not teach law, but they do teach divinity.

Ho!

Ho, for 300 students next session! We must have them, we need them, and they need us. Rally, rally, ye Baptist hosts! On, on, for 300 young men in Mississippi College next year! It is the best place for your boys; send them on. Catch the watch-word; sound it along the lines; from the North to the South, from the East to the West, let it go: Three hundred, Three hundred! Three hundred students for Mississippi College next fall! Let every body try. Get the boys here; that is the best endowment in the world. Listen: 300! 3-0-0! 3-0-0!

Brother G. W. Knight is with Brother David in a very interesting meeting at the Fifteenth Avenue Baptist church. The congregations are large and the interest quite pronounced. We are expecting and praying for great things.

QUERIES.

Has a church the right to exclude a member for a real or an imaginary offense without first giving said member a trial? Isn't it unscriptural to exclude a member without giving that member a chance to vindicate himself, either before a committee or the church?

What should be the course of said member, he claiming to be innocent of said offense?

By answering the above through your paper, you will greatly oblige Yours in Christ,

CHURCH MEMBER.

ANSWER.

Each church is a sovereign, and has the right to do as she pleases in regard to her own affairs, provided she pleases to do right. There is no tribunal or power this side of heaven that can set in judgement upon her acts; so whatever she does is final, whether it be right or wrong, unless she chooses to alter or change it herself. The scriptures are silent as to the manner of proceeding in the exclusion of members. It is presumed that each church will seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit in all that she does, and if she is, she cannot and will not do wrong. There may be an extreme case, or a case under extreme circumstances, where a church would do right to exclude a member without a trial; and I might add that if the whole church is satisfied that the party ought to be excluded, and have made up their minds that he is guilty, and this conclusion is arrived at from personal knowledge of the facts in the case, I could see no benefit to the church, or the cause of Christ, in prolonging matters by going through the form of a trial.

As a rule, it is not right to exclude a member without giving him a chance to vindicate himself; and should a church do so, and the party so excluded insists upon an opportunity to reconsider the matter and give him a chance to vindicate himself. Of course, if the church has no confidence in any statement he would make, or any testimony he would produce to show his innocence, she could simply exclude him. But by dealing with the member in this way, she would show to the world that she was a body that had an eye to the right in the management of her affairs. This will dispose of the first and second query.

As to the third: The course to be pursued by the member will be to ask the church to reconsider the matter and give him an opportunity to vindicate himself. I don't think any church can afford to refuse to do this, and cannot believe that any church would refuse to do it. But should the church refuse to reconsider the case, the excluded member can bring the matter before some other church, who would have the right to investigate the case for herself; receive the excluded member, or refuse to receive him into her fellowship, as the facts in the case may warrant.

Fraternally,

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